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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) A process for production of acrylic acid, which comprises the step of carrying out catalytic gas phase oxidation of acrolein in the presence of molecular oxygen, thereby producing the acrylic acid;

with the step of carrying out catalytic gas phase oxidation using a catalyst which is obtained by a process that includes the steps of: heating a mixed liquid of starting materials including molybdenum and vanadium as essential components; and then molding the resultant dried material with a liquid binder; and then calcining the resultant molding; wherein the liquid binder is an aqueous liquid of 7.0 to 10.0 in pH.

5. (previously presented) A process for production of acrylic acid according to claim 4, wherein the liquid binder is an aqueous liquid of 7.5 to 9.5 in pH.

6. (previously presented) A process for production of acrylic acid according to claim 4, wherein a physical strength of the catalyst is 98.6 mass % or more.

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7. (previously presented) A process for production of acrylic acid according to claim 6, wherein the physical strength of the catalyst is measured in accordance with the following procedure:

- a) providing a stainless-steel-made reaction tube of 25 mm in inner diameter and 5,000 mm in length and setting said stainless-steel-made reaction tube in a vertical direction;
- b) closing a lower end of said stainless-steel-made reaction tube with a stainless-steel-made receiving plate of 1 mm in thickness;
- c) dropping 50 g of the catalyst from an upper end of the stainless-steel-made reaction tube into the stainless-steel-made reaction tube;
- d) removing the stainless-steel-made receiving plate, having the catalyst that has been dropped, from the stainless-steel-made reaction tube such that the catalyst is extracted from the stainless-steel-made reaction tube;
- e) sieving the catalyst that has been extracted with a sieve having a mesh opening size of 4 mm; and
- f) wherein the physical strength (mass %) of the catalyst equals [(mass of catalyst remaining on sieve)/(mass of catalyst as dropped from the upper end of the stainless-steel-made reaction tube)] X 100.